

CUTTING EDGE CAMELOT, No 144

Sunday 30th January 2022

‘Virtually Church but with some way to go...’

Welcome

Welcome to this edition of Cutting Edge Camelot. This Sunday’s look at our Bible passage takes a rather different form as Anna explains below.

Lectio divina

Today, rather than offering a reflection on a Bible passage, we will be doing something slightly different, which is known as *lectio divina*. This may already be familiar to you, if not, hopefully you will find it helpful to try out a new way of engaging with the Bible. *Lectio divina*, which means ‘divine reading’, was developed by St Benedict, and encourages a way of reading the Bible that allows space for reflection as well as action.

I’ve found it a helpful way of exploring Bible passages – especially ones that I know well – in a new way. Often, something that has never occurred to me before will jump out at me, and I find that a particular word or phrase really connects with what is going on in my life at the time.

Below is an explanation of the approach, which you might like to try with today’s Bible passage...

There are four stages to *lectio divina*, but before you start, make sure you are **comfortable** and you may find it helpful to take a few **deep breaths** to help you calm yourself and focus:

1. First, **read** a passage of the Bible (*lectio*) – you might like to do this out loud.

2. Then pause, and consider if a particular sentence or word stood out for you; if it did, take time to **reflect** upon it (*mediatio*). You may then like to reread the passage again and see if another sentence or word stands out for you.
3. You may then wish to **pray** about what it was that particularly struck you within the passage (*oratio*), simply talking to God about how it relates to your life.
4. Following this, you may wish to spend some time just **'being'** in God's presence (*contemplatio*).

Sometimes a fifth stage is added, as you **respond** to what you have reflected upon in action (*operatio*). As well as this, you may continue to meditate upon or reflect on what you have discovered throughout the day, and this may naturally shape your actions.

You may also find it helpful to share with someone else how you found the experience of using *lectio divina*.

Scripture Passage

Luke 2: 22-40: Jesus is Presented in the Temple

When the time came for their purification according to the law of Moses, they brought Jesus up to Jerusalem to present him to the Lord (as it is written in the law of the Lord, "Every firstborn male shall be designated as holy to the Lord"), and they offered a sacrifice according to what is stated in the law of the Lord, "a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons."

Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon; this man was righteous and devout, looking forward to the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit rested on him. It had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he would not see death before he had seen the Lord's Messiah. Guided by

the Spirit, Simeon came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, to do for him what was customary under the law, Simeon took him in his arms and praised God, saying,

“Master, now you are dismissing your servant in peace,
according to your word;
for my eyes have seen your salvation,
which you have prepared in the presence of all peoples,
a light for revelation to the Gentiles
and for glory to your people Israel.”

And the child’s father and mother were amazed at what was being said about him. Then Simeon blessed them and said to his mother Mary, “This child is destined for the falling and the rising of many in Israel, and to be a sign that will be opposed so that the inner thoughts of many will be revealed – and a sword will pierce your own soul too.”

There was also a prophet, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was of a great age, having lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped there with fasting and prayer night and day. At that moment she came, and began to praise God and to speak about the child to all who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem.

When they had finished everything required by the law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favour of God was upon him.

Anna.

Masks are no longer mandatory

Under the lifting of many of the government’s Plan B covid restrictions masks are no longer mandatory in churches.

Points for Prayers

- How we might respond to what we have learnt by looking at Jesus' presentation in the Temple through our lectio divina
- The transitions following the lifting of Plan B Covid restrictions
- Continued thanksgiving for the care, skill and courage of NHS workers and that they will not be overwhelmed by the demands on them in the winter period
- Those whom we know who are facing illnesses of all kinds and have recently been bereaved
- Those suffering as a result of Storm Malik
- Our curate Anna and her family as they prepare for their move to Cornwall
- Bishop Ruth and the rest of the Diocesan staff as they take on additional responsibility in this vacancy in See
- For the choice of a new Bishop, someone who shares God's heart for this Diocese
- For Elliscombe House in Higher Holton now reopened and for its first residents
- For North Cadbury Church School and other local schools as their new term proceeds
- Prayers and thanksgiving for contributions to the foodbanks and for those helping to take these to the foodbanks.

Hymn

One of the hymns which we are singing at North Cheriton and Maperton is 'Great is thy faithfulness.'

Services for this morning and for February

Sunday 30 th January	8.00 am Communion, Blackford
Sunday 30 th January	9.30 am Family Service, North Cheriton
Sunday 30 th January	11.00 am Matins, Maperton
Sunday 30 th January	4.00 pm Evensong, Galhampton
Sunday 6 th February	9.00 am Communion, Yarlington
Sunday 6 th February	9.30 am Camelot Matins, North Cheriton
Sunday 6 th February	11.00 am Group Communion, North Cadbury
Sunday 13 th February	9.30 am Communion, Galhampton
Sunday 13 th February	9.30 am Communion, North Cheriton
Sunday 13 th February	9.30 am Matins, Blackford
Sunday 13 th February	11.00 am Sunday Worship, Holton
Sunday 20 th February	9.30 am Communion, Compton Pauncefoot
Sunday 20 th February	11.00 am Communion, Maperton
Sunday 20 th February	11.00 am Sunday Worship, North Cadbury
Sunday 20 th February	4.00 pm Evensong, Yarlington
Sunday 27 th February	8.00 am Communion, Blackford
Sunday 27 th February	9.30 am Communion, South Cadbury
Sunday 27 th February	9.30 am Matins, Compton Pauncefoot
Sunday 27 th February	9.30 am Morning Worship, North Cheriton
Sunday 27 th February	11.00 am Communion, North Cadbury
Sunday 27 th February	11.00 am Communion, Holton
Sunday 27 th February	11.00 am Sunday Worship, Yarlington
Sunday 27 th February	4.00 pm Evening Service, Galhampton

Excalibur

Excalibur is back in paper form. It contains details of Camelot people, a record of baptisms, weddings and funerals undertaken through the church in the Camelot Parishes. The December and January editions of Excalibur have now been published online at camelotparishes.co.uk and on each parish's A Church Near You webpage.

The Parish Office

If Rob is not in the Office during normal office hours please contact him via email (office@camelotparishes.org.uk) or on 01749 850934.

Growing as a worshipper, a servant and a family

*We pray that 'we might live in love,
as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us'*

(Ephesians 5:2)